

REMARKS

I. Summary of Office Action

Claims 1-2, 4, 12-13, 15, 23-24, 26 and 34-42 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-2, 4, 12-13, 15, 23-24, 26 and 34-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gerace U.S. Patent No. 5,848,396 ("Gerace") in view of Schein et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,388,714 ("Schein").

II. Summary of Applicants' Reply

Applicants have amended claims 1, 12 and 23 to more particularly define the claimed invention. Applicants have also added new claims 43-45. Applicants' claim amendments and new claims do not introduce any new matter and are fully supported by the originally-filed specification (see, e.g., p. 21, l. 5-p. 22, l. 7).

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following remarks.

III. Summary of Telephonic Interview

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended during the February 8, 2006 telephonic interview with the undersigned and Mr. Paul Leblond. During the interview, claim 1 was discussed in light of Gerace. In

particular, the feature of "providing the user with an opportunity to select a delivery scheme from a plurality of delivery schemes for delivering the personalized schedule information" was discussed ("delivery scheme feature"). Applicants argued that Gerace does not show different delivery schemes for delivering personalized schedule information that includes both television listings and schedule information for non-televised events. The Examiner responded that the term "personalized schedule information" is defined as including both television listings and schedule information for non-televised events in a feature that appears after the delivery scheme feature, and therefore, in the context of the delivery scheme feature, "personalized schedule information" is to be interpreted broadly and is not affected by the definition that follows the delivery scheme feature.

Applicants respectfully disagree, and submit that when a claim feature specifies the features of a term, those features must be applied to the entire claim, not only to the portions of the claim that happen to appear after the claim feature. However, in the interest of advancing prosecution in this case, applicants have amended claims 1, 12 and 23 to

move the claim feature defining "personalized schedule information" up to the delivery scheme feature of the claim.

IV. Applicants' Reply to the § 103 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4, 12-13, 15, 23-24, 26 and 34-42 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Gerace in view of Schein. Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Applicants' claimed invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1, 12 and 23, is directed to a method and systems for providing a user with personalized schedule information. The user selects a television-related information source and specifies first criteria for delivering television program listings from the selected television-related information source. The user also selects a non-television-related information source and specifies second criteria for delivering schedule information for non-televised events from the selected non-television-related information source. The user further selects "a delivery scheme from a plurality of delivery schemes for delivering personalized schedule information," where the personalized schedule information includes both the selected television program listings and the selected schedule information for non-televised events. The personalized schedule information

is then generated and delivered to the user based on the selected delivery scheme. (claims 1, 12 and 23).

The Examiner relied on Schein only as showing personalized schedule information that includes "at least one video or video still related to one of the television program listings." Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 12 and 23 to remove this feature. Accordingly, Schein no longer applies to the pending independent claims.

The Examiner contends that Gerace shows every feature of applicants' amended independent claims 1, 12 and 23. In particular, the Examiner contends that Gerace shows allowing the user to select "a delivery scheme from a plurality of delivery schemes for delivering personalized schedule information" and points to col. 17, ll. 18-52, and col. 21, ll. 23-27 and ll. 50-52 of Gerace (Office Action, p. 4, ¶ 2). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection.

Gerace is directed to providing a data assembly for displaying customized agate information to a computer user, and a tracking and profiling member for recording user activity with respect to agate information displayed through the data assembly (col. 2, ll. 6-15). Gerace specifies that data is displayed in Page Display Objects 35a-35c (col. 7,

ll. 35-37). The Page Display Objects provide outlines for various types of pages, including a Home Page (col. 7, l. 39). The Home Page 43 includes six categories of data: "stock data, sports, weather, travel schedules, directory information and Classified/Personals/Real Estate messages" (col. 7, ll. 47-50). The Page Display Objects also provides outlines for a Media Schedule Page (col. 7, l. 42). A user may access the Media Schedule Page through the Home Page (col. 10, ll. 9-11). The Media Schedule Page (not the Home Page) includes television listings, film listings and live performance listings (col. 10, ll. 12-14). Gerace explicitly distinguishes the information available from the Home Page (e.g., stocks, sports, and weather) from the information available from the Media Schedule page (e.g., television listings).

Gerace indicates that the system may send message/notices, warnings and alerts to the screen of the user's PC or via e-mail in three different places.

First, Gerace indicates that the system may provide messages/notices and warnings in response to a user request for "warnings for [any] data category," where the data categories refer to the data categories of the Home Page (col. 17, ll. 18-20, emphasis added). Gerace then gives

several examples, including warnings for stock prices and weather, both of which are listed in the data categories of Home Page 43 (col. 17, ll. 20-52).

Next, Gerace describes the features available for each category of interest of the system. Gerace identifies a message/notice alert feature for only some of the categories of interest. Those categories of interest are stock and business data (col. 21, ll. 23-27), weather (col. 21, l. 50-52), sports statistics (col. 22, ll. 10-12), travel information (col. 22, ll. 23-25) and classifieds and personals (col. 23, ll. 1-5).

Finally, in Appendix III, which describes the user customized categories, Gerace describes a warning/notices feature for specific categories (col. 29, ll. 67). Those specific categories are sports (col. 31, ll. 30-35), weather (col. 31, ll. 53-55), travel (col. 32, ll. 13-18), telephone (col. 32, ll. 34-38), personals (col. 32, ll. 61-64) and classifieds (col. 33, 32-24).

In all three places, Gerace describes message/notices, alerts or warnings for a single category of information (e.g., stocks or sports). Gerace does not show or suggest combining multiple categories of information into a single warning, as required by applicants' independent

claims (i.e., the personalized schedule information that is delivered includes both television program listings and schedule information for non-televised events).

Furthermore, Gerace never shows message/notices, alerts or warnings for any of the information displayed in the Media Schedule page (col. 22, ll. 44-52). Gerace only shows displaying the information of the Media Schedule page, including television listings, film schedules and live performance listings, in the Media Schedule page on the user's PC. In addition, Gerace provides no motivation or suggestion to modify Gerace to allow for message/notices, alerts or warnings for television listings.

Accordingly, Gerace does not show or suggest applicants' claimed feature of allowing a user to select "a delivery scheme from a plurality of delivery schemes for delivering personalized schedule information, wherein the personalized schedule information includes [the selected] television program listings [and the selected] schedule information for non-televised events" (claims 1, 12 and 23, emphasis added). For at least the foregoing reasons, independent claims 1, 12 and 23 are allowable over Gerace. Claims 2, 4, 13, 15, 24, 26 and 34-45, which depend from one of independent claims 1, 12 and 23, are therefore also

allowable over Gerace. Accordingly, applicants respectfully request the rejection of claims 1-2, 4, 12-13, 15, 23-24, 26 and 34-45 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

V. Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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